Overview of Enterprise Architecture

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What is “Enterprise Architecture’?

Enterprise Architecture (EA) is a business tool. It is commonly used by large organizations to identify opportunities to leverage technology, alleviate redundancy, or to highlight where the overlap within an organization’s business units, limits the value of IT investments.

Why do organizations develop an Enterprise Architecture?

To reduce IT costs through shared technical infrastructure and services, to improve application and data interoperability, and, ultimately, to improve service delivery and operational efficiency.

Vision of Enterprise Architecture within Wisconsin

It is envisioned that within the State of Wisconsin, the Enterprise Architecture will facilitate horizontal (cross-agency) and vertical (federal, state and local units of government) integration of IT resources, and establish the a direct correlation of the contribution of IT to agency business mission and program performance.

What are the anticipated outcomes of implementing an Enterprise Architecture?

The desired outcome of the State of Wisconsin Enterprise Architecture initiative will be a more-citizen-centered, customer-focused government that maximizes technology investments to better achieve the business goals of the State of Wisconsin.

Enterprise Architecture Principals

Key principals driving the implementation of an Enterprise Architecture are flexibility, adaptability and interoperability. These principals ensure that the Enterprise Architecture will be able to grow and change to respond to changes within the business environment of Wisconsin State Government.

Wisconsin Enterprise Architecture Team (WEAT)

To facilitate the development of an Enterprise Architecture for the State of Wisconsin, the State's Chief Information Officer has created the Wisconsin Enterprise Architecture Team (WEAT).

Composition of WEAT

WEAT is composed of technical experts representing the diverse needs of State Agencies (both large and small), Local Units of Government and the University of Wisconsin.

Input from Business Leaders

As WEAT is composed of technical experts, WEAT seeks the input, guidance and insight regarding "business issues or drivers" from Executive Management within State Agencies and Local Units of Government.

Value of an Enterprise Architecture

What is the value proposition to executive managers to participate in defining business, policy or regulation issues to support an Enterprise Architecture? Cost avoidance, re-alignment of resources and uniformity of business process.

Enterprise Architecture Example

An administrative function (e.g. “business driver”) within the State of Wisconsin is the need to collect for employees their time and attendance to produce payroll. State agencies can fulfil this business driver in a variety of ways: pen and paper form, custom developed applications on a LAN, or a web-based form.

Payroll, Time and Leave Accounting

Currently, within the State we have each of these systems are in place with State Agencies. In addition there are plans by four separate Agencies to develop their own customized web-based application for payroll time and attendance.

Benefit of Enterprise Architecture

Enterprise Architecture, based upon well-defined and articulated business drivers, would permit the State of Wisconsin to create a single web-based application for payroll time and attendance.

Extension of Enterprise Architecture

Ideally, the payroll-time and attendance solution would be able to address the needs of Local Units of Government within Wisconsin. Thus, the total cost for a payroll time and attendance is significantly reduce and "value" is extended to Local Units of Government

Questions